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Private  
(Blue Mountains)  
Umatilla

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**ANALYSIS OF  
GRANDE RONDE WORKING CIRCLE  
UMATILLA NATIONAL FOREST  
OREGON**

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## SUMMARY

### Grande Ronde Working Circle

#### Location

Watersheds of Wenatchee Creek, Wenaha River, and Squaw Creek and the lower slopes of the Grande Ronde River from Rondowa to Troy.

#### Area

	<b>National Forest (Acres)</b>	<b>Other (Acres)</b>
Timbered	136,110	49,965
Non-timbered	120,610	49,395
Total	256,720	99,360

#### Stand

Ponderosa Pine	474,070 M ft.b.m.
Douglas Fir	156,518 M ft.b.m.
Western Larch	167,055 M ft.b.m.
White Fir	166,927 M ft.b.m.
Engelmann Spruce	27,269 M ft.b.m.
White Pine	434 M ft.b.m.
Others	4,473 M ft.b.m.
Total	996,746 M ft.b.m.

## GRANDE RONDE WORKING CIRCLE

### Umatilla National Forest

#### Purpose of Analysis

This analysis presents summarized stand data, inventories of industrial and local timber needs, and the major problems involved in sustained yield management of the unit. It also attempts to point the way toward the solution of these problems.

#### Source of Data

The stand and acreage data are taken from the Forest Resource Survey recently completed for this unit. Local and commercial needs were determined from forest cutting records and by contact with the various operators.

## Previous Cutting

Accurate knowledge is not on hand as to the amount of commercial cutting which has taken place on private land within this circle. However, the following information presents a fairly accurate picture of the present situation.

**Wenatchee Block.** The cutting in this block has all been done on private land outside the Forest boundary. 1900 acres of the ponderosa pine type have been cut over together with 3200 acres of the fir-larch type.

**Wenaha Block.** No appreciable cutting has taken place on this block on privately owned land and only about 100 acres of the fir-larch type have been cut over on the National Forest.

**Elbow Block.** No cutover exist on this block.

## Physiographic Features

### Location

The circle lies within the watersheds of Wenatchee Creek, the Wenaha River, and Squaw Creek as well as along the lower slopes of the Grande Ronde River from Rondowa to Troy.

### Acreage

	Commercial	Non-Commercial With Timber	Non-Commercial Without Timber
National Forest	124,705 A.	11,405 A.	120,610 A.
Other Federal	1,000		3,590
State	2,170	5	1,545
County	1,220		465
Private	43,970	1,600	43,795
Total	173,065	13,010	170,005

Total area within circle - 356,080 acres.

### Topography

Good topographic data for this circle are not available at this time. However, in general the area is rather rough and inaccessible, especially the upper drainages of the Wenaha River. Much of the circle is so steep and rough that what little timber cover exists should be retained for watershed protection purposes and as a haven for wildlife. The Wenaha drainage comprises the major portion of the northern roadless area and will never be opened up to any extent.

## **Forest Description**

### **Types**

#### **Wenatchee Block:**

**Ponderosa Pine Type.** The total area of 12,055 acres represents 22.6% of the block area. It is all reasonably accessible and undoubtedly will be logged some day.

**Douglas Fir Type.** The total area of 895 acres represents 1.7% of the block area. The timber is reasonably accessible.

**Fir-Larch Type.** The total area of 14,160 acres represents 26.3% of the block area. This type is largely accessible.

**Non-Forest or Non-Commercial Type.** The total area of 26,360 acres represents 49.4% of the block area.

#### **Wehaha Block:**

**Ponderosa Pine Type.** The total area of 27,525 acres represents 12.1% of the block area. 22,915 acres are covered by mature pine. It is all largely inaccessible and the portion on the upper Wenaha River totally so.

**Fir-Larch Type.** The total area of 73,300 acres represents 32.2% of the block area. It is all largely inaccessible.

**Douglas Fir Type.** The total area of 9,620 acres represents 4.2% of the block area. Very little of this timber is accessible.

**Deforested Burns.** There are 675 acres included in this classification which represent .3% of the block area.

**Other Timber Land Types.** There are 6,730 acres of these types which represent 2.9% of the block area.

**Non-Forest or Non-Commercial Type.** There are 109,965 acres in this classification which represents 48.3% of the block area.

## Elbow Block:

**Ponderosa Pine Type.** The total area of 26,005 acres represents 34.8% of the block type. This type is all reasonably accessible.

**Douglas Fir Type.** The total area of 45 acres represents .1% of the block area.

**Fir-Larch Type.** The total area of 14,570 acres represents 19.5% of the block area. This type is all reasonably accessible.

**Other Timber Land Types.** The total area of 1,155 acres represents 1.5% of the block area.

**Non-Forest or Non-Commercial Type.** The total area of 33,005 acres represents 44.1% of the block area.

## Probable Use of Various Species

Such of the ponderosa pine as can be transported to the Grande Ronde River and the lower portion of the Wenaha River will probably be driven down the Grande Ronde River to Lewiston and sawed there. The inferior species, where accessible, will be used largely for minor forest products, such as fuel, poles, posts, etc.

## Summarized Tables of Volume, Area, & Status

### Wenatchee Block:

Ownership	Area (acres)	Volume, M ft. B.M.
National Forest	26,245	50,501
Other Federal	550	
State	2,080	6,904
County	360	225
Private	24,250	73,919
Block Total	53,485	131,549

### Wenaha Block:

Ownership	Area (acres)	Volume, M ft. B.M.
National Forest	196,750	477,131
Other Federal	585	800
State	440	1,519
County	320	7,442
Private	29,720	90,616
Block Total	227,815	577,508

## Elbow Block:

<b>Ownership</b>	<b>Area (acres)</b>	<b>Volume, M ft. B.M.</b>
National Forest	33,725	164,137
Other Federal	3,455	5,057
State	1,200	6,825
County	1,005	5,299
Private	35,395	106,371
Block Total	74,780	287,689
Circle Total	356,080	996,746

The distribution of private ownership in the circle is as follows:

## Wenatchee Block:

Farrish Lumber Co. – 1,900 acres

Ponderosa Pine	1,050 M ft, b.m.
Douglas Fir	1,300 M ft, b.m.
Western Larch	505 M ft, b.m.
White Fir	1,700 M ft, b.m.
Engelmann Spruce	150 M ft, b.m.
Total	4,705 M ft, b.m.

Miscellaneous Small Ownerships – 52,485 acres

Ponderosa Pine	224,657 M ft, b.m.
Douglas Fir	85,676 M ft, b.m.
Western Larch	117,195 M ft, b.m.
White Fir	115,557 M ft, b.m.
White Pine	386 M ft, b.m.
Engelmann Spruce	24,871 M ft, b.m.
Others	4,461 M ft, b.m.
Total	572,803 M ft, b.m.

## Wenaha Block:

Miscellaneous Small Ownerships – 227,815 acres

Ponderosa Pine	225,707 M ft, b.m.
Douglas Fir	86,976 M ft, b.m.
Western Larch	117,700 M ft, b.m.
White Fir	117,257 M ft, b.m.
White Pine	386 M ft, b.m.

Engelmann Spruce	25,021 M ft, b.m.
Others	4,461 M ft, b.m.
Total	<u>577,508 M ft, b.m.</u>

## Elbow Block:

Bowman Hicks Lumber Co. – 2,080 acres

Ponderosa Pine	10,067 M ft, b.m.
Douglas Fir	2,834 M ft, b.m.
Western Larch	2,467 M ft, b.m.
White Fir	1,177 M ft, b.m.
Engelmann Spruce	125 M ft, b.m.
Total	<u>16,670 M ft, b.m.</u>

Miscellaneous Small Ownerships – 72,700 acres

Ponderosa Pine	166,156 M ft, b.m.
Douglas Fir	45,042 M ft, b.m.
Western Larch	32,372 M ft, b.m.
White Fir	26,457 M ft, b.m.
White Pine	48 M ft, b.m.
Engelmann Spruce	932 M ft, b.m.
Others	12 M ft, b.m.
Total	<u>271,019 M ft, b.m.</u>

## Circle Totals

Ponderosa Pine	627,637 M ft, b.m.
Other Species	815,068 M ft, b.m.

## Economic Situation

### Towns and Communities

The little town of Troy, which is dependent upon a rather thinly populated stock ranching community, is the only center dependent upon this circle for timber products. Its needs are small and there is no reason to believe that the population of this territory will ever materially increase. Such timber as can be transported outside to existing milling centers should rightly go to them as it will never be needed for other purposes.

### Wood Using Industries

Until quite recently Mr. Lester Harding of Asotin, Washington owned and operated a small mill in Sec. 9, T. 6 N., R. 43 E. The mill has a daily capacity of 6 M ft. b.m. The



1937 production was 250 M ft. b.m. Mr. Harding has now moved his mill to the James Horak place in the Clearwater working circle.

## **Transportation**

Transportation is a major problem in this circle. Much of the area will always remain inaccessible, and it will be years before even the major portion of the more accessible timber is needed for established milling centers. It is believed that some of the timber in the Wenatchee block may logically go to support a small mill now located adjacent to the Clearwater working circle. If this proves to be true, no hesitancy should be shown in making sales for this purpose.

It is quite probable that it will later prove to be feasible to drive logs down the Grande Ronde River to Lewiston. It is also quite possible that with the installation of two or three splash dams the lower 12 or 14 miles of the Wenaha River can be driven. If this assumption is incorrect, transportation for even the most accessible timber will indeed be a problem.

## **Labor Situation**

Labor will never become a problem in connection with the management of this unit. Local labor is used which automatically adjusts itself to the various other labor needs.

## **Ownership Problems**

Due to the remoteness from markets private owners in the vicinity of Troy hold even their high-grade pine stands in low esteem, and certain of them are girdling small patches of timber in order to clear land which they believe valuable for agricultural purposes. This practice is indeed deplorable but we see no way to prevent it.

## **Plan of Action**

### **Ultimate Forest Boundary**

A 1/4" scale map is included in the appendix showing the proposed ultimate Forest boundary for this circle. It is our belief that all forest producing lands should be included within the Forest boundary. Some of the foothill timber lands will undoubtedly always remain in private ownership as they form an integral part of headquarters stock ranches. Other than this type of ownership there is no opportunity for logical units of either State or County Timber lands.

### **Ultimate Circle Boundary Based on Planned Transportation Facilities**

Data on hand are insufficient to justify recommending boundary changes at this time. The present boundary seems to be logical and probably will never require other than minor revisions.

## **Sales Policy**

Small sales should continue to be made as needed to meet local use requirements for timber products other than saw logs. We plan to investigate Mr. Mallory's operation this summer and will attempt to work out a small sustained yield unit for him if it appears feasible to do so.

## **Administrative Correlation**

**Acquisition Program.** Private lands within the National Forest portion of this working circle do not create a special problem and are of relatively low priority in comparison with alienations elsewhere on the Forest. However, it should be the general policy that they be acquired together with private cutovers outside the Forest boundary at the earliest practicable date. Sales of government stumpage should be made whenever possible with this purpose in mind.

**Recreation.** Certain high-value recreational areas occur within the circle, especially along the Wenaha River, and these values must be preserved. The recreational plan for the Forest should be checked in regard to this matter before any timber sale contract is executed.

**Grazing.** Grazing and timber utilization should in every case be correlated so that active logging operations will not materially interfere with proper grazing use.

**Watershed Protection.** The Wenaha River is one of the major fishing streams on the Umatilla Forest, and such logging as may be done along it should be carried on in such manner as not to materially accelerate erosion. Care should also be taken to secure adequate clean-up along the stream banks.

**Need for Policy Statement.** Even though major cutting will not take place in this circle for a considerable time, a brief policy statement should be prepared within the next five years or so. This should be done to insure that cutting proceeds in an orderly manner. It is believed that such a statement will require at least two weeks of field investigation and that approximately three weeks will be needed for office compilations.

## VOLUME BY SPECIES IN THOUSAND BOARD FEET

### Wenaha Block

Owner-ship	Ponder-osa	Douglas Fir	Western Larch	White Fir	Engel-mann Spruce	White Pine	Others	Total
Private	82,212	4,695	2,616	1,093				90,616
State	1,280	239						1,519
County	4,229	1,509	1,076	487	141			7,442
Other	722	34	28	16				800
Fed.								
Nat.	137,264	80,499	113,980	115,661	24,880	386	4,461	477,131
Forest								
TOTAL	225,707	86,976	117,700	117,257	25,021	386	4,461	577,508

### Wenatchee Block

Private	51,454	9,545	3,382	9,368	170			73,919
State	4,148	939	710	1,107				6,904
County	150			75				225
Nat.	16,388	11,182	10,424	11,486	1,021			50,501
Forest								
TOTAL	72,140	21,666	14,516	22,036	1,191			131,549

### Elbow Block

Private	79,363	13,731	8,992	3,920	355		10	106,371
State	5,555	865	395	10				6,825
County	2,967	1,113	688	395	134		2	5,299
Other	3,903	800	164	190				5,057
Fed.								
Nat.	84,435	31,367	24,600	23,119	568	48		164,137
Forest								
TOTAL	176,223	47,876	34,839	27,634	1,057	48	12	287,689

### WORKING CIRCLE TOTALS

Private	213,029	27,971	14,990	14,381	525		10	270,906
State	10,983	2,043	1,105	1,117				15,248
County	7,346	2,622	1,764	957	275		2	12,966
Other	4,625	834	192	206				5,857
Fed.								
Nat.	238,087	123,048	149,004	150,266	26,469	434	4,461	691,769
Forest								
TOTAL	474,070	156,518	167,055	166,927	27,269	434	4,473	996,746

## TYPES IN ACRES

### Wenaha Block

Owner- ship	Ponderosa				Douglas Fir	Fir - Larch		Defor ested Burns	Other Tbr. Types 175	Non-For. or Non- Comm. 13,845	Total
	Mature 3,290	Imma ture 95	Reprod 345	Woodla nd 535	Second Growth 9,600	Large 1,580	Small 255				
Private	240									200	440
State	280				5	35					320
County	125									460	585
Other											
Fed.	18,980		30	3,605	15	51,345	20,085	675	6,555	95,460	196,750
Nat.											
Forest											
TOTAL	22,915	95	375	4,140	9,620	52,960	20,340	675	6,730	109,965	227,815

### Wenatchee Block

Private	6,730		1,420	815	120	1,985	3,065				10,115	24,250
State	600		45	5		540	110				780	2,080
County	15					25					320	360
Other					75		5				470	550
Fed.												
Nat.	2,350			75	700	5,790	2,640		15		14,675	26,245
Forest												
TOTAL	9,695		1,465	895	895	8,340	5,820		15		26,360	53,485

### Elbow Block

Private	11,890	675	765	75	25	2,065	65				19,835	35,395
State	615	10					10				565	1,200
County	555					305					145	1,005
Other	735				20	25	15				2,660	3,455
Fed.												
Nat.	10,685					8,880	3,205		1,155		9,800	33,725
Forest												
TOTAL	24,480	685	765	75	45	11,275	3,295		1,155		33,005	74,780

### WORKING CIRCLE TOTALS

Private	21,910	770	2,530	1,425	9,745	5,630	3,385		175		43,795	89,365
State	1,455	10	45	5		540	120				1,545	3,720
County	850				5	365					465	1,685
Other	860				95	25	20				3,590	4,590
Fed.												
Nat.	32,015		30	3,680	715	66,015	25,930	675	7,725		119,935	256,720
Forest												
TOTAL	57,090	780	2,605	5,110	10,560	72,575	29,455	675	7,900		169,330	356,080



**LEGEND**

Working Circle Boundary

Block Boundary

Ultimate Forest Boundary